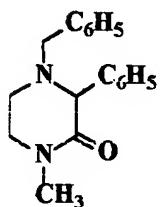


**CLAIMS**

We claim:

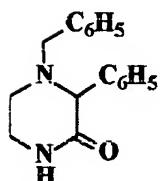
1. A process for preparing a compound represented by Formula II



Formula II

5

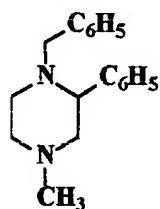
comprising methylating 4-benzyl-2-oxo-3-phenylpiperazine, of Formula VI.



Formula VI

2. The process of claim 1 where the said methylating step is conducted with methyl iodide in *N,N*-dimethylformamide in the presence of sodium hydride.

3. A process for preparing compound represented by Formula VII



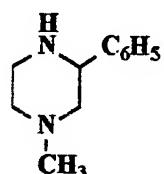
Formula VII

comprising reducing the methylated compound of Formula II.

4. The process of claim 3 where the said reducing step is conducted with lithium aluminum hydride.

5

5. A process for preparing 1-Methyl-3-phenylpiperazine represented by Formula I



Formula I

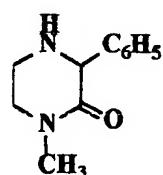
comprising hydrogenating compound of Formula VII as obtained in claim 3.

10

6. The process of claim 5 where the said hydrogenation step is conducted in acetic acid in the presence of palladium-carbon catalyst.

7. A process for preparing a compound represented by Formula VIII

15



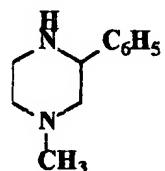
Formula VIII

comprising hydrogenating the compound of Formula II.

8. The process of claim 8 where the hydrogenating step is done in acetic acid in the presence of palladium-carbon catalyst.

9. A process for preparing 1-Methyl-3-phenylpiperazine represented by Formula I

5



Formula I

comprising reducing the compound of Formula VIII .

10. The process of claim 10 where the said reducing step is conducted with lithium aluminum hydride.

11. A process for preparing 1-Methyl-3-phenylpiperazine of Formula I comprising the steps of

reducing a compound of Formula II,

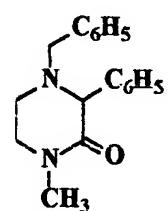
15 hydrogenating a compound of Formula VII.

12. A process for preparing 1-Methyl-3-phenylpiperazine of Formula I comprising the steps of

hydrogenating a compound of Formula II,

20 reducing a compound of Formula VIII,

13. A piperazine derivative compound represented by Formula II below



Formula II

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